

WO 2004/107926

10/560024
PCT/GB2004/002441

19

AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 14 March 2005 (14.03.05);
original claims 15-19, 21, 24 and 25 are cancelled; renumbering of original claims
20, 22, 23 and 26 as new claims 15-18; remaining claims unchanged (2 pages)]

IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 8 DEC 2005

- (b) forming an aperture extending through the compressed region of the material, the material being compressed around the periphery of the aperture; and
- (c) separating the washer from the wadding material;
- so that the compressed wadding material of the washer exhibits sufficient elasticity at least around the periphery of the aperture such that, when the washer is fitted to upholstery together with a tuft, the dimensions of the aperture may increase sufficiently to accommodate engagement means for the tuft and then return to a resting state after disengagement of the engagement means for the tuft so as to prevent disengagement of the tuft.
10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the wadding material contains fusible material.
11. A method according to claim 10, wherein step (a) comprises compression and/or fusion of the wadding material containing fusible material, such that the washer is compressed and/or fused around the periphery of the aperture.
12. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein steps (a) and (b) occur substantially simultaneously.
13. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 12, wherein step (a) is carried out so as to leave an area immediately surrounding the aperture unmodified.
14. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 13, carried out continuously to produce a washer associated with one or more further such washers.
15. Upholstery fitted with at least one washer as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8.
16. A washer substantially as described and illustrated herein with reference to the accompanying Figs. 8a, 8b, 9 and 12.
17. A method of manufacturing a washer from wadding material substantially as described and illustrated herein with reference to the accompanying Figs. 10a, 10b and 10c.

AMENDED SHEET (ARTICLE 19)

WO 2004/107926**20****PCT/GB2004/002441**

18. Upholstery substantially as described and illustrated herein with reference to the accompanying Fig. 11.